

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request consideration of the subject application as amended herein. This Amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action mailed March 10, 2006. Claims 1-15 and 32 have been withdrawn. Claims 16-17, 20-21 and 23-31 are rejected. Claims 18-19, and 22 are objected. In this Amendment, Claims 16-19, 22, 26-27, and 31 have been amended.

35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

Claim 26 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicants regard as the invention.

The Examiner rejected claims 26 for failing to provide proper antecedent basis. Applicants amended claim 26 and respectfully submit that amended the claim comply with § 112, second paragraph, and therefore request withdrawal of this rejection.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and § 103

Claims 16, 20, 23-24, 26, and 28-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Batchelder (U.S. 5,472,502, hereinafter, "*Batchelder*"). Claims 17, 21, 25, and 27, all of which depend directly or indirectly on Claim 16, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Batchelder*. As discussed below, Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims 16-17, 20, 21, and 23-31 are patentable over the above reference.

Batchelder fails to teach or suggest all of the elements of the claimed invention. In particular, *Batchelder* fails to teach the element of "**saturating the coating chamber with the**

carrier-solvent vapor mixture.” *Batchelder* states: “[t]o control the saturation level of the solvent in the **local atmosphere**, a solvent vapor is introduced through a showerhead which is positioned in close proximity to the spinning surface.” (Col. 3, ll. 2-5). *Batchelder* sought to prevent the formation of vortices between the showerhead and surface, which move the surrounding “dry” air into the space between the showerhead and surface causing premature drying of the chemical and undesirable thickening in the chemical coating of the surface. (See Col. 5, ll. 15-40). Thus, “dry” air, which is not laden with solvent vapor, is present in the *Batchelder* device. *Batchelder* sought to minimize the influence of the “dry” air by “dispersing a sufficient volume of solvent vapor through showerhead 312 to compensate for the volume of air thrown from the airspace adjacent to surface 304. In other words, the flow rate of the solvent vapor through showerhead 312 is equal to the rate at which air is thrown from the **local atmosphere** plus some additional amount included as a margin of safety.” (Col. 6, ll. 14-21). Thus, *Batchelder* does not teach or suggest “saturating the coating chamber” as required. In contrast, *Batchelder* teaches flowing solvent vapor over an article surface at a determined flow rate in order to minimize the influence of “dry” air.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the subject rejections be withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claim(s) 18-19 and 22 contain allowable subject matter if rewritten to include all the limitations of the claims from which they each originally depended. Claim(s) 18-19 and 22 have been so amended. In view of these amendments, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are now in condition for allowance, and request allowance of said claims.

CONCLUSION

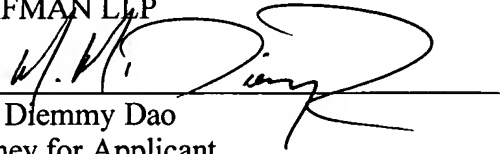
Applicants respectfully submit that in view of the amendments and arguments set forth herein, the rejections herein have been overcome. Accordingly, it is believed that all claims now pending patentably define the subject invention over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited at the earliest possible date. If the Examiner determines the prompt allowance of these claims could be facilitated by a telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to contact Mimi Dao at (408) 720-8300.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a)(3), applicant(s) hereby request and authorize the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to (1) treat any concurrent or future reply that requires a petition for extension of time as incorporating a petition for extension of time for the appropriate length of time and (2) charge all required fees, including extension of time fees and fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 and 1.17, to Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR
& ZAFMAN LLP

Dated: 5/31, 2006


Mimi Diemmy Dao
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 45,628

12400 Wilshire Boulevard
Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90025-1026
(408) 720-8300